

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Bright Shadows **INSTRUCTIONS**

What is a Shadow?

A shadow happens when a solid object blocks the rays of light.

Does everything have a shadow? Take a look around and see that most things form shadows. You will notice that swings, trees, cars, tables, almost everything has a shadow. Any object, living or nonliving, that can block light can cast shadows.

Is there anything that does not have a shadow? Some objects, such as glass, are transparent. Light can shine through them. Some light shines through translucent objects, such as a balloon or sheet of wax paper. Light cannot shine through opaque or solid objects and you cannot see through them.

“Turn your face to the sun and all the shadows will fall behind you.” – Maori Proverb

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White Paper (any size)
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Colored Markers or Colored Pencils

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will observe that a shadow can show an object's shape, but it can't show colors or details (like a smile or a frown), they will add bright color to the background of their artwork to create a bright white shadow of their chosen object!

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think shadows are dark in color?
- Do you think anything can create a shadow?
- Can shadows be fun?
- What would your favorite shadow image be?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Go outside during the day and look around at objects, do you see their shadows? Are they long or short? Does the shadow look like the object or is it distorted? Do you see details from the object in the shadow, or is it one solid color? NOTE: Shadows are longest in the early morning and in the late afternoon when the sun is the lowest in the sky. In the afternoon, when the sun is directly above, shadows are not as noticeable.

Step 2:

- Begin by thinking about what object you would like to use to trace a shadow of. It can be a vase of flowers, favorite toy or figurine, a tool, a clump of grapes, any solid object.

Step 3:

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- Go outside with your chosen object, a piece of white paper, a pencil and eraser. Place your paper on the ground or on a table. Position your object next to your paper so you can see its shadow on the paper.
- *Experiment:* What happens to the shadow when you move your object around the edges of the paper? Where does the shadow look most like the shape of your object? What happens to the shadow when you pull your object back away from the paper? How does the height and angle of your object change?

Step 4:

- Position your object so the shadow is the least distorted and you like how it looks on your paper. Use your pencil to trace around the outside of the shadow. Trace any edges and shapes within the shadow where light shows through. Take your time to draw the outlined details of your object, but not too much time that the sun moves! You should end with an outlined shadow version of your object.

Step 5:

- Add background color! Use your markers or colored pencils to color in the background area, the area all around your outlined shadow (leaving the shadow completely white). You can add a creative scene in your background or fill the background with your favorite bright color(s). Make sure to also add color to any areas where the light had shown through within your shadow.

Step 6:

- Consider giving your artwork a title and don't forget to sign it!

POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What do you like best about your artwork?
- How does the bright white shadow make you feel compared to a darker shadow?
- What did you learn from creating your art project?

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ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:

